

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: BERND GAYER ET AL.

Serial No.: (To Be Assigned)

Group Art Unit: (To Be Assigned)

Filed: September 17, 2003

Examiner: (To Be Assigned)

Title: FLEXIBLE GAP COVERING BETWEEN AN ADJUSTABLE STEERING
COLUMN OF A MOTOR VEHICLE AND AN INSTRUMENT PANEL AND
METHOD OF MAKING SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE

The relevance of German Document No. DE 195 25 181 (corresponding European Patent Document No. EP 0 753 447) to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background and Summary of the Invention in the specification of the present invention.

CONCISE EXPLANATION OF NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS

An English abstract and the U.S. counterpart of German Patent No. DE 37 28 457 (corresponding U.S. 4,899,612) are submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

If necessary, the paper should be considered as a petition for consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2) and that the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(3) should be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 028987.52500US).

Respectfully submitted,

September 17, 2003



Donald D. Evenson
Registration No. 26,160

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
DDE:alw

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| FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office | Attorney Docket No. 028987.52500US | Serial No. (To Be Assigned) |
| Applicants: Bernd GAYER et al. | | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | Filing Date September 17, 2003 | Group (To Be Assigned) |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|--------------------|------------|----------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Examiner Initial | | Document Number | Date | Name | Class | Sub- Class | Filing Date (if appropriate) |
| | AA | 4,899,612 | 02/13/1990 | Bruhnke et al. | 74 | 493 | 08/26/1988 |
| | AB | | | | | | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
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| Examine r Initial | | Document Number | Date | Name | Class | Sub- Class | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | Yes | No |
| | AK | EP 0 753 447 | 01/15/1997 | Polster et al. | | | Claims in English | |
| | AL | DE 37 28 457 | 01/26/1989 | Bruhnke et al. | | | Abstract | |
| | AM | DE 195 25 181 | 01/16/1997 | Ulrich et al. | | | Abstract | |
| | AN | | | | | | | |
| | AO | | | | | | | |
| | AP | | | | | | | |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| | AQ | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication. | |